

TOWN OF LAC DU FLAMBEAU, WI

COUNTY OF VILAS
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FINAL REPORT Lake Steward Program

Lake Planning Grant

SPL-255-11

November 4, 2011

This document is intended to satisfy requirements specified in the Lake Planning Grant Agreement between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Town of Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, including the items listed therein as Project Deliverables.

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INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The waters of Lac du Flambeau are clearly at risk. Several lakes have infestations of Smelt, Purple Loosestrife, or Rusty Crayfish, while other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) like Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-Leaf Pondweed are moving ever closer. During the course of completing the activities for this grant, infestations of Curly Leaf Pondweed were confirmed in Rice Creek in Boulder Junction and infestations of Eurasian Water Milfoil were confirmed in Kentuck Lake in Phelps. Apprehension continues that the rapid growth and spread of aquatic invasive species may significantly harm the local economies, property values, and the ecosystems and native species, while also threatening human health.

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The TLC has learned to view AIS in the larger context of lake ecosystems. The underpinning belief is that the lakes can be protected best from AIS when volunteers have a broad understanding of how lakes and ecosystems actually work. AIS must not be viewed in isolation of the total environment.

Therefore, the Town Lakes Committee, with assistance from the Tribe, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Wisconsin Extension, began introducing a Lake Steward Program to Lac du Flambeau's residents. The Lake Steward Program is designed to help individuals, lake associations, and other organizations learn about the lakes, including lake ecosystems, limnology, aquatic plant identification, aquatic invertebrate identification, and management and control of infestations. The Lake Steward Program is also designed to maintain a network of Lake Stewards so information flows easily between the Lake Stewards, the TLC, and other organizations. The TLC serves as the narrow of the hour glass guiding the flow of information back and forth between the Lake Stewards and other organizations.

Approval of the grant application has enabled the Town Lakes Committee to continue implementing the Lake Steward Program, including designing and hosting another Lake Steward Workshop. The TLC's recent experiences reveal the need for the TLC to provide educational programs, collect and disseminate information about lake ecosystems to all in the community, and create a network of support so that individual volunteers, lake associations, and other organizations in Lac du Flambeau have a common understanding of the lakes and a shared will to address important issues effectively. To these ends the following goals, objectives, and activities associated with this grant were dedicated.

Status of Project Goals and Objectives

Project Goal: Fully Implement a Lake Steward Program

Objective... Prevent Aquatic Invasive Infestations through a Lake Steward Program

The primary purpose of the Lake Steward Program is to identify, educate, and equip volunteers who support Lac du Flambeau's effort to prevent and manage infestations of aquatic invasive species. Through the Lake Steward Program, volunteers are taught about the local lake ecosystems, how to identify invasive species, and how to participate in the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program and the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network.

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Activity 1: Establish a Lake Steward Action Team

Deliverable: List of Members

Time: Early April

Status. The Town Lakes Committee established a Lake Steward Action Team in April. The Action Team was responsible for coordinating completing the activities presented in this report. Members on the Action Team included: Roberta Gast, Jack George, and Norm Wetzell. Depending on the activity, other TLC members assisted as well.

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Activity 2: Prepare an Action Plan for the Lake Steward Program

Deliverable: Copy of the Action Plan

Time: Mid-April

Status. A draft *Lake Steward Action Plan* submitted with the grant application was revised in April and then used to guide completing the approved grant-related activities. {See disc, Item 1}

Activity 3: Host a Lake Steward Workshop

Deliverable: List of Attendees

Time: August 3, 2011

Status. The Town Lakes Committee planned and then hosted a Lake Steward Workshop on August 3, 2011. The full-day workshop included sessions on limnology, aquatic plant identification, and strategies for lake monitoring. {See disc, Item 2}

The format for the 2011 workshop was similar to that of the 2010 workshop. The content of the sessions for 2011, however, was adjusted to reflect the 2010 evaluation and input solicited from the presenters. For 2011, the session on aquatic plant identification had more emphasis on assisting participants to identify plants taken from their own lakes. They also were introduced to pressing plants. The session on lake monitoring was expanded to include greater emphasis on invertebrates like Rusty Crayfish, Chinese Mystery Snail, New Zealand Mud Snail, Spiny Water Flea, Gobi, Smelt, etc. The outdoor component was modified to include crayfish identification. Crayfish traps were set by the workshop dock a day or two before the workshop so participants could learn how to set traps. The trapped Rusty Crayfish were used during the workshop. Participants also learned how to use a tow net, prepare for a lab check for Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Fleas, and how to take Secchi readings and water chemistry samples.

At the end of the workshop, participants completed an evaluation of the workshop and declared whether they would serve Lac du Flambeau as Lake Stewards. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent, the participants provided a rating of 9.50. {See disc, Item 3} Nine of the participants declared to serve as Lake Stewards and as a result of offering the Lake Steward Workshop in 2010 and 2011, Lac du Flambeau now has forty-two Lake Stewards.

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Activity 4: Hold a Lake Steward Spring Meeting

Deliverable: List of Attendees

Time: Early June

Status. The Lake Steward Action Team hosted a meeting on June 8 for Lake Stewards who participated in the 2010 workshop. The primary purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on lake issues and make sure the Lake Stewards had the equipment and supplies needed for the 2011 season. Also, they were asked for their advice on plans for the 2011 workshop. Five Lake Stewards attended the meeting. {See disc, Item 4}

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Activity 5: Issue Lake Steward Bulletins

Deliverable: Copies of Bulletins

Time: April-October

Status. Six Lake Steward Bulletins were issued to help the Lake Stewards keep abreast of AIS issues, including information provided by the WDNR, the Tribe, the Vilas County Coordinator for Invasive Species, and other agencies and individuals. {See disc, Item 5}

Activity 6: Issue Newsletter

Deliverable: Copy of Newsletter

Time: Early June

Status. One newsletter focusing on the Lake Steward Program, aquatic invasive species, and other lake ecosystem issues was mailed to approximately 3500 residents in July. The newsletter included information on how to register for the 2011 Lake Steward Workshop. {See disc, Item 6}

Activity 7: Utilize Website

Deliverable: Copies of Inclusions

Time: April-December

Status. As they were created, Lake Steward Bulletins, the TLC Newsletter, the TLC Calendar, and other items like the agendas and minutes of Town Lakes Committee meetings were published on the Town of Lac du Flambeau website. {See disc, Item 7}

Activity 8: Participate in Lakes Fest

Deliverable: Item in Final Report

Time: June 25

Status. Information about the Lake Steward Program, AIS, and the grant application was distributed at the Lac du Flambeau Lakes Fest on June 25. As a result, some individuals registered for the Lake Steward Workshop while attending the Lakes Fest.

In addition to disseminating information at the Lakes Fest, the Lake Steward Action Team hosted a booth at the Vilas County Lake Association on June 17, hosted a booth at the Casino

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Convention Center fish fry on August 13-14, and conducted a session highlighting the Town Lakes Committee and the Lake Steward Program at the Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Green Bay on April 12-14.

Activity 9: Volunteer Reception

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Deliverable: Copy of Program and materials

Time: Late August

Status. The Lake Steward Program was highlighted at the Volunteer Appreciation Reception that was held at the Casino Convention Center on August 25. {See disc, Item 8}

Activity 10: Equipment and Supplies

Deliverable:

Time: April-December

Status. The Lake Steward Action Team had the following equipment and supplies available for Lake Stewards throughout the 2011 season.

- ✓ CLMN Handbook
- ✓ Addition of Chapter 12 (Weevil) to original CLMN Handbook
- ✓ Sample of Zebra Mussels
- ✓ Sample of Spiny Waterfleas
- ✓ TLC Newsletter
- ✓ Through the Looking Glass
- ✓ Understanding Lake Data
- ✓ AIS Protocols (Citizen lake Monitoring Network)
- ✓ AIS Education Cards
- ✓ Magnifying Glass
- ✓ Secchi Disc
- ✓ Lac du Flambeau Strategic Plan
- ✓ Rapid Response Plan
- ✓ Appropriate Brochures and Pamphlets
- ✓ CLMN and CBCW Forms

Data Collected

Data were collected in four ways.

1. The TLC's Daily Log Form was the primary document used to log time spent on fulfilling the obligations of the grant. Data were entered on the TLC Database.
2. Participants in the Lake Steward Workshop were given an opportunity to evaluate the workshop. At the end of the workshop, participants completed an evaluation of the workshop and declared whether they would serve Lac du Flambeau as Lake Stewards. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent, the participants provided a rating of 9.50. {See disc, Item 3}

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3. Secchi and chemistry data collected by Lake Stewards and other volunteers through the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network were entered onto the WDNR's database.
4. Watercraft inspection data collected by Lake Stewards and other volunteers through the Clean Boats Clean Waters program were entered onto the WDNR's database.

The following table summarizes data on the TLC's Donation Database by showing the number of hours volunteers donated for each activity. The data for the primary focus of this grant, Lake Steward Program, is highlighted. {See disc, Item 9}

Activity	# Hours	Activity	# Hours
CBCW	659	Lake Steward Prog.	542
Travel for CBCW	72	Lake Associations	14
CLMN	1183	Purple Loosestrife	186
Travel for CLMN	4	Strategic Planning	281
Watercraft Inspect	54	Public Relations	167
Lake Monitoring	47	Total Hours	3207

Status of Proposed Partnership

The Town of Lac du Flambeau (TLC), the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Tribe), and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources were the primary partners in the grant. The Lac du Flambeau Environmental Community Organization (ECO) and local lake associations were also involved.

- The TLC administered the grant and acted as fiscal agent. The Financial Report will be submitted to the WDNR by January 2012.
- The Tribe's Natural Resources Department provided staff to present sessions on limnology and lake monitoring at the Lake Steward Workshop and to assist with the TLC's effort to contain infestations of Purple Loosestrife.
- The Lac du Flambeau Environmental Community Organization (ECO) tried to recruit students to attend the Lake Steward Workshop, but the students declined to participate. However, ECO and the TLC were successful in teaching elementary school children about AIS at an afterschool program at the local school.
- The following local lake associations were invited to sponsor attendees at the Lake Steward Workshop:

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White Sand Lake Association	Twin Placids Lake Association
Ike Walton Lake Association	Shishebogama-Gunlock Lakes Association
Squaw Lake Association	Spring-Jerms Lake Association
Pokegama Lake Association	Crawling Stone Lakes Association
Moss Lake Association	Bills Lake Association

- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provided \$3000 for materials, supplies, postage, rental, and purchased services. Also, WDNR staff members (Susan Knight, Sandy Wickman, Carol Warden, Brock Woods) were directly involved in the Lake Steward Workshop.

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Plan for Sharing Results

Monthly Reports. Progress reports were presented monthly to the Town Lakes Committee with copies made available to the Town Board and Tribe. All documents were available to the public on request through the Office of the Clerk, Lac du Flambeau.

Volunteer Reception. Results through August 25 were made available at the Volunteer Appreciation Reception.

Lakes Fest. Results through June 25 were made available the Lakes Fest.

Wisconsin Lakes Conference. The activities noted in the Final Report as well as numerous other activities undertaken by the Town Lakes Committee within the past few years were presented by TLC representatives in a session at the Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Green Bay, April 12-14, 2011.